

NEWS RELEASE

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KANSAS CITY, KANSAS, MAN SENTENCED FOR BEING A FELON IN POSSESSION OF A FIREARM AND AMMUNITION

KANSAS CITY, Kan. – United States Attorney Eric Melgren announced that **Manuel Gonzalez**, 22, Kansas City, Kansas, was sentenced on March 8, 2004, by U.S. District Judge G. Thomas VanBebber to **57 months in federal prison, without parole, to be followed by three years of supervised release.**

Melgren stated that Gonzalez entered a guilty plea on December 15, 2003, to one count of being a felon in possession of a firearm and ammunition.

Melgren said that Gonzalez admitted at his plea that on August 29, 2003, Kansas City, Kansas, police officers responded to the report of a disturbance at a residence on South Ferree Street, Kansas City, Kansas. Officers learned from an occupant at the residence that Gonzalez had left the residence carrying a shotgun wrapped in a towel. A few blocks away, officers found Gonzalez carrying a towel containing a sawed-off shotgun. Gonzalez was arrested and during a search of his person, officers found a shotgun shell. Gonzalez admitted that he had previously been convicted of a felony, attempted aggravated battery, in Wyandotte County, Kansas, in 2001.

Melgren commended the excellent work of the Kansas City, Kansas, Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives in this investigation and Assistant U.S. Attorney Scott Rask in this prosecution.